

DISTRICT III ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

7:00 p.m.

Colvin Mini City Hall, 2820 S. Roosevelt

Members Present

Bill Ward
Phyllis Hall
Matt Foley
John Kemp
Phil Bloomquist
Gene Fuhr
Jim Gulick

Members Absent

Jim Skelton
Lois Ann Newman
Judy Dillard
Brent Turnipseed
Council Member Lambke

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Bill Ward called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Bill Ward did not have any changes to be made to the agenda.

Public Agenda

- 1. Scheduled items – None were submitted**
- 2. Off-agenda items – None were submitted**

Recommendation: Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Planning Agenda

None scheduled.

Unfinished Business

None scheduled.

New Business

3. Council Compensation Charter Ordinance

Bill Ward, First Pro Tem, encouraged members of the DAB to read the Agenda Report no. 01-0069 provided to the Mayor and the City Council. Members upon reading this report were made aware that a state statute adopted in 1959 limited Council salaries to \$3,000 (\$4,000 for the mayor). In 1974, the City Commission exempted the City of Wichita from this non-uniform statute to allow the City to establish its own terms of compensation for the governing body. In 1992, the City Council adopted a Charter Ordinance setting City Council compensation at \$14,000 and the Mayor's compensation at \$29,500, effective April 11, 1995. In addition, the Council is allowed an annual cost of living increase and an automobile allowance. DAB members also were informed that a proposed charter ordinance establishes new terms of compensation for City Council members and the Mayor. After April 10, 2001, the salaries for Council members would be \$30,000 annually; the Mayor's annual salary would be \$75,000. The Charter ordinance retains the current provisions on annual cost of living increase (50% of CPI-U increase), in-lieu of social security payments, and an automobile allowance (as set by Council policy).

Board Members then shared comments regarding the proposed council compensation:

- **Gulick** does not want the Mayor to run the City like a day to day business; he feels the Mayor doesn't know how to run the City. Gulick also said that the City does need a Mayor as a spokesperson for the City. He is not opposed to the \$30,000 raise for the Council Members. They work full-time making decisions that are important. If the City wants quality people, they need to pay these people enough in order for them to leave their current job so they can serve on the Council Board. The salary of \$ 75,000 for the Mayor oversteps what he's worth.
- **Foley** paraphrased Vice-Mayor Lambke's comment that Police Officers' salary is \$30,000 annually and they put their life on the line; Teachers make \$30,000 annually and work more than what their contract requires and they also put their life on the line. The Board of Education puts in time for free and they make important decisions. He doesn't believe Council Members work the same as the previously mentioned entities.
- **Fuhr** commented that the general public does not believe that the Mayor is worth \$75,000. He questions the timing of the issue, especially so close to tax time and the fact that the budget has already been established and the fact that there will need to be an adjustment to said budget. The council compensation should be done in increments.
- **Kemp** is not in favor of Mayor receiving a council compensation. He also believes that the Council Members should receive an incremental raise that will draw better participants.
- **Hall** said the Mayor is not worth \$75,000, at least all at once. She does believe the Council Members should receive a compensation and that it should be done in increments.

- **Bloomquist** agrees that the council compensation should be done in increments. He finds it odd that Council members are making less money than an employee working at a fast food restaurant. He believes that Council Members should receive more than \$30,000 due to the fact that they are like managers in that they make very important decisions. Bloomquist also believes that the Mayor wouldn't be making enough at \$75,000 annually. The Mayor represents the City, he has heavy political influence, and he performs many functions. He commented that cities the size of Wichita pay their mayors more money. A city cannot attract the type of quality people needed for this position at \$75,000, when a manager at a fast food restaurant receives this amount of salary or more. Bloomquist believes the Mayor functions as middle management and middle management anywhere else makes between \$120,000 and \$ 130,000 annually. In order to keep quality people attracted, the City needs to offer them better pay. He also thinks it 's ludicrous that Neighborhood Assistants are making more money than Council Members and Wichita Police Officers.
- **Fuhr** commented that it's hard separating the Mayor from Bob Knight. There are a lot of bad sentiments against Bob Knight. DAB needs to consider the issue by separating Bob Knight from the Mayor, because there will be another Mayor that will not be Bob Knight and the decision needs to be considered in that respect.
- **Ward** said a mistake was made when in 1992 the City took away the volunteer part of the City Council and made it a paid job. We need to see the people we elect as a large corporation. If we want the best job for our district then we need to pay them better. Either we go back to a volunteer position or we need to pay them. We can cut a petition drive out by putting the issue up to a City vote. Make the council compensation an incremental compensation and it will go without a cut petition drive.
- **Kemp** said that no one seems to be opposed to a council compensation.
- **Fuhr** said the population is opposed to 150% increase for the Mayor.
- **Bloomquist** said that Bob Knight isn't any different than the Council Members. He is a Council Member that proceeds over the City Council Meetings. Bob Knight should be considered as a Council Member and give him a small compensation.
- **Gulick** said that the compensation should be done in increments over a three-(3) year period. At the end of three (3) years, the DAB should review the issue again.
- **Bloomquist** said that the City Manager makes more money than any other City Manager in any other city. He runs the city and allocates the money.
- **Ward** said the council members set the policy, they can't change or make the decisions. Ward recommended an increase in compensation on an incremental basis over a three (3) year period.
- **Foley** said that the public should have a say, but the decision is up to the City Manager.
- **Bloomquist** said that if the council compensation is given, it should be proportional to the Council Members and to the Mayor. The Council

members should receive \$30,000 annually and the Mayor should receive \$60,000 annually.

- **Ward** said there is a consensus among the DAB members that they recommend an incremental increase in the council compensation.

Fuhr made a motion that at the next DAB meeting, members discuss the proposal that Council members receive an incremental increase over a three (3) year period. Also, discuss the proposal that the Mayor receive a proportional three (3) year incremental increase to that of the Council Members'. (7-0)

Recommended action: Board unanimously voted to discuss at the next meeting the Council Compensation issue in order to reach a Recommendation for the City Council.

Board Agenda

None scheduled.

Being no further business, **Mr. Ward** adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

**Fátima Crump
Neighborhood Assistant**